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Dated 10/17/04

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/830,215 Confirmation No. 3140
Applicant : Akira KUBOTA et al.
Filed : April 24, 2001
TC/A.U. : 1773
Examiner : N.J. Uhler
Dkt. No. : IPE-004
Cust. No. : 20374

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c)
WITH A STATEMENT AS SPECIFIED IN 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

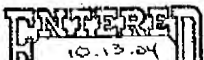
October 7, 2004

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. These documents have been cited in an office communication in a corresponding Chinese patent application. One copy of each of the listed documents and a copy of the office communication is attached.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted after issuance of a first official action on the merits and expiration of the three month period following filing of the above-captioned application, but prior to issuance of a final official action or a

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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Notice of Allowance or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

The undersigned hereby states that each item of information contained in this statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

The undersigned also hereby states that the information contained in this information disclosure statement was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this statement.

No explanation of the relevance of document UA is believed to be required under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 because the document is in English. Please note that document UA is a corresponding patent publication to EP 0 522 758 which was cited in the International Search Report and Office Action dated March 21, 2003, in the present application.

Document FA is not in English. However, it has an English language counterpart, U.S. Patent No. 6,124,020. For the convenience of the Office, applicants submit herewith a copy of the English language counterpart of document FA. The concise explanation of the relevance of document FA required under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 is believed to be satisfied thereby.

U.S. Patent Appln. S.N. 09/830,215
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

PATENT

No fee is required in connection with this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: PTO-1449
Two Documents
Chinese Patent Office Communication
U.S. Patent No. 6,124,020

10.804

RECEIPT OF FILING OF PAPERS

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PAPERS FILED HEREWITH:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c) WITH A STATEMENT
AS SPECIFIED IN 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)
(With PTO-1449, Two Documents, Chinese
Patent Office Communication & U.S. Patent
No. 6,124,020)

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DATE: October 7, 2004

(Dkt: October 9, 2004)

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